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SUBJECT: CYPRUS SUPPORTS NEW BURMA SANCTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 83719

11. Per reftel, PolOff demarched First Secretary Nikos Panayi, Cypriot MFA Burma Desk Officer, on August 5 regarding the new Burma sanctions. In a moment of unguarded candor, Panayi acknowledged that Burma is not "of high interest" to Cyprus because the GOC does not have high stakes in the region. However, Cyprus, along with the European Union, supports the newly-announced Burma sanctions and "smart sanctions" in general -- i.e., those sanctions which hit selected circles of the regime while not penalizing the general population. Panayi stated that the EU will continue to support the tightening of sanctions as long as the Burmese junta continues to defy the international community and continue down its rigid path toward so-called democracy.
SCHLICHER